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**OBEY PRAISES ADMINISTRATION DECISION
TO GO AFTER ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN U.S. JAILS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) today praised the Obama Administration for deciding to intensify federal efforts to aggressively identify illegal immigrants who are in prison and should have been targeted for deportation.

The Obama Administration announced today that federal law enforcement agencies will begin checking the immigration status of every person booked into local jails around the country to identify people for deportation before they are released from custody.

Since 2007, the House Appropriations Committee, which Obey chairs, has been pushing the Department of Homeland Security to focus more on identifying and removing criminal illegal aliens and has provided the agency with \$1.2 billion - more than the agency asked for - to do it.

“It's important that the public has confidence in the federal government's willingness and ability to enforce the laws on illegal immigration,” Obey said. “It is a federal law enforcement responsibility and I couldn't be more pleased that the new Administration has toughened up the previously casual policy.”

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